UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

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MOURNING DOVE HUNTING FRAMEWORK UNCHANGED AT FEDERAL LEVEL;
MINOR LIBERALIZATION ON WHITEWINGS ALLOWED IN TEXAS

The Federal "framework" for mourning dove hunting in 1966 was announced today by Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall and remains unchanged from the rules established for this migratory species in 1965. Within those guidelines, States will select their seasons and establish their bag limits.

The only change in any of the dove or pigeon seasons and limits was a slight increase for white-winged doves in Texas, plus the opening of Nye County, Nevada, to the same species.

On the widely hunted mourning doves, States are authorized a daily bag of 12 and a possession of 24, with seasons varying between 70 half-days in the East to 50 full days in the West, while the Central Region may have 60 full days, except for Texas. Each State will establish its season between September 1 and January 15.

Based upon a reported one-third increase in white-winged doves in Texas, that State's whitewing season will be six half-days, with a bag and possession limit of 12 and 24. Last year it was four half-days, with limits of 10 and 20. On mourning doves, as in the past, Texas will have 60 half-days in two zones.

The season for band-tailed pigeons, permitted only in California, Oregon, and Washington, is 30 days, with bag and possession limits set at eight.

The detailed framework, as approved by Secretary Udall, within which States will establish their seasons, is:

MOURNING DOVES

Within the dates of September 1 and January 15, all States may select specific open seasons under the following conditions:

<u>Eastern Management Unit</u>: (all States east of the Mississippi River, plus Louisiana):

- 1. Daily shooting hours from noon until sunset (standard time);
- 2. Daily bag limit of 12 and possession limit of 24;
- 3. Open season of 70 consecutive half days; or
- 4. Split seasons of not more than three periods totaling not more than 70 half days.

Central Management Unit: (Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Wyoming.)

- 1. Daily shooting hours from one-half hour before sunrise until sunset in all States except Texas;
- 2. Daily bag limit of 12 and possession limit of 24;
- 3. Open season of 60 consecutive full days in all States except Texas; or
- 4. Split seasons of not more than three periods totaling not more than 60 full days in all States except Texas.

In New Mexico, daily bag and possession limits on mourning and whitewinged doves, singly or in the aggregate, are 12 and 24.

Because of its large area, Texas may select open seasons for each of two established geographical areas subject to the following conditions:

- 1. In the Northern Area, an open season of 60 consecutive half days within outside dates of September 1 through January 15 with daily shooting hours from 12 o'clock noon until sunset (standard time).
- 2. In the Southern Area, an open season of 60 consecutive half days within outside dates of September 24 through January 15 with daily shooting hours from 12 noon until sunset (standard time):

 Provided, that in the 12 counties of the Southern Area where hunting of both mourning and white-winged doves is permitted for 6 half days between September 1 and September 15, the mourning dove season will run for only 54 consecutive days with the opening of this 54-day season to coincide with the opening of the full season selected for the Southern Area.

Western Management Unit: (Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington.)

- 1. Daily shooting hours from one-half hour before sunrise until sunset;
- 2. Daily bag limit of 12 and possession limit of 24;
- 3. Open season of 50 consecutive full days; or
- 4. Split seasons of not more than three periods totaling not more than 50 full days.

In Clark and Nye Counties, Nevada, and in Imperial, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties, California, daily bag and possession limits on mourning and white-winged doves, singly or in the aggregate, are 12 and 24.

WHITE-WINGED DOVES

An open season is prescribed for the entire States of Arizona and New Mexico; in Imperial, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties of California; in Clark and Nye Counties, Nevada; and in Texas Counties of Brewster, Brooks, Cameron, Culberson, Dimmit, El Paso, Hidalgo, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Jim Hogg, Kenedy, Kinney, La Salle, Maverick, Presidio, Starr, Terrell, Val Verde, Webb, Willacy, and Zapata.

In Arizona, California, Nevada, and New Mexico, open season dates and daily shooting hours will conform with those for mourning doves.

Within outside dates of September 1 through September 15, Texas may select an open season of 6 half days in 21 counties with daily shooting hours from 12 noon until sunset (standard time), and a daily bag of 12 and possession limit of 24.

In Arizona, the daily bag and possession limit for white-winged doves is 25.

In California, Nevada, and New Mexico, the daily bag and possession limits on white-winged and mourning doves, singly or in the aggregate of both kinds, are 12 and 24.

BAND-TAILED PIGEONS

Within the outside dates of September 1 through January 15, Oregon and Washington may select seasons of 30 consecutive days; and California may select open seasons of 30 consecutive days for each of two previously established areas. In all States, the daily bag and possession limit is 8. Daily shooting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise until sunset.